

**Mrs. Barbara Mowrer**

# Ceramics - From A Hobby To A Business

Mrs. Walter E. (Barbara) Mowrer, Columbia R1, a busy mother and housewife, not only helps with farm chores but has turned an enjoyable hobby into a profitable business in her home.

Mrs. Mowrer learned some of the techniques of making ceramics in high school then took some more lessons. Four years ago she had an opportunity to buy used shelves, paints and greenware from a lady. She bought two new medium sized ovens and since then has bought a used large and a small oven. She has been teaching ceramics in her home for four years. She has 25 students at the present time. She has classes Mondays and Wednesdays, one a daytime class and the other evening, and usually has 8 or 10 at a time. She has had as many as 18. Mrs. Mowrer has about 250 molds. They pour the slip into the molds in her house basement in the winter and in the garage in summer. She teaches them how to clean, fire and paint it. There are three firings to a piece. She does



by  
Mrs.  
Charles  
McSparran  
Farm Feature  
Writer

small details for the students. Some people buy greenware from her and some buy finished ceramic pieces besides the ones she teaches. Even her young children enjoy pouring the molds and making some finished pieces.

Mowrers are the third generation to own and operate this 81 acre farm on Kames Hill Road in West Hempfield Township. It is located just off Route 23, west of Silver Springs. Barbara was born there. Her grandfather, Henry Earhart, bought and farmed it a short time. Then her father Isaac bought it. He farmed it at least 30 years then he and Mrs. Earhart moved to Mount Joy R2. Mowrers have been on the farm 8 years and owned it for 5 years.

Mowrers have a Holstein herd of 45 cows and 30 heifers. They bought the herd from Barbara's dad. They are in DHIA and ended this past year with a rolling herd average of 532 pounds of fat and 14000 pounds of milk. Walter is also a member of the Holstein Association and has been a member of the Penna. Farmers Association at least 5 years. He is raising 20 of their bull calves as steers. He has them butchered at Keagy's and sells them by quarters or halves at 800 to 1000 pounds. He works for Claude Keagy, in his butcher shop, about three days a week. Mr. Keagy has a small farm nearby and his wife goes to Root's Country Market and Auction.

Walter raises 30 acres of alfalfa and 30 of corn. He also does some custom hay baling. Barbara keeps the farm financial records, washes the milkers in the mornings and feeds silage in the evenings. She used to rake hay.

Mowrers have three children. Timothy Scott, "Timmy", is six years old and in kindergarten at Farndale Elementary School. He helps feed silage sometimes and sweeps walkways in the cow stable. He pours molds and makes some ceramics. Kristina, "Tina", is four years old. Tina also makes some ceramics. Kenneth Lee, "Kenny", is 7 months old.

Walter, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth M. Mowrer, 64 E. Park Street, Elizabethtown, grew up on a dairy farm which they rented near Maytown. He is a member of Reichs Evangelical Congregational Church, near Maytown. Barbara, though a member of West Greentree Church of the Brethren near Milton Grove, attends Reichs Church regularly and is president of the Young Married Sunday School class. They meet bi-monthly in the homes. She serves on some church committees and helped teach the Primary Sunday School class this past summer.

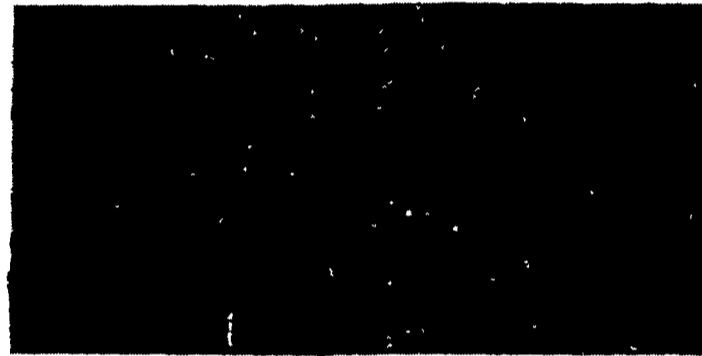
Barbara graduated from Hempfield High School and the Lancaster General Hospital School of Practical Nursing. She worked two years in the hospital, then served two years for the Brethren Volunteer Service in Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia and came back and worked two more years in the General Hospital.

She was a charter member of Farm Women Society 29 when it organized six years ago. She was secretary last year and is co-chairman of the Sunshine committee this year. They have 22 members.

Barbara used to be a leader of the Junior Girl Scout troop at Farndale Elementary School. She and Walter belong to the Farndale Elementary PTA and attend the meetings. They are members of the Red Rose Country Squares square dance team. They performed at the Pa. Farm Show six or seven times. The team received blue ribbons three times and red and white ribbons the other times.



Mrs. Mowrer takes some ceramic pieces from her kilns. Some finished pieces are in the foreground.



Mowrers have a number of antiques in their home. They bought some of them but several came down from their families. They are especially proud of an 1882 hanging lamp they bought and of a pitcher and bowl set which belonged to Grandmother Earhart. They also have a carnival glass water set which belonged to her and a dark blue water set which belonged to Walter's Grandmother Mueller.

Barbara made wall to wall carpet for a bedroom recently of wool and orlon plush strips glued together with burlap strips underneath. It is done in gold and moss green squares in a checkerboard design. She antiqued an old bureau and bed in green for that room and bought a green heirloom bedspread on sale. Walter panelled the room in walnut. The room looks lovely yet was furnished very inexpensively. She has crocheted a couple afghans, knit some baby sets and a pant and top set.

Barbara gives us several of her favorite recipes. The children love to help make the gingerbread men and the caramel corn, and the play dough furnishes hours of fun for them. These are good ideas for mothers of small children. They will get the kiddies interested in making things for themselves as well as keep them busy on stormy or long winter days.

**Play Dough**

- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup salt

[Continued on Page 41]

## Country Corner

with: Melissa Piper  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of Country Corner, a new column which will appear weekly in Lancaster Farming.

In the coming weeks, we hope to answer some of the request mail that we receive each week along with providing and sharing useful information related to farm activities.

While some of the material will be related to farm wife activities, and household topics, we invite farmers and farm related personnel to join in with comments or requests.

When writing to us, please address mail to Country Corner, Lancaster Farming, Box 266, Lititz, PA 17543. We ask that all letters or requests be signed although names will be withheld upon request.

**Amish Doll Patterns**

Over the past several weeks, numerous letters had found their way to my desk with inquiries of where to find patterns for Amish Dolls. It took several weeks of hunting and phoning before I found part of the solution. The results — I found that the Quarryville Auxiliary to the Lancaster General Hospital has been making the Amish Dolls for some time and while they do not sell the patterns, the dolls are available from the organization at a cost of \$5.00. Interested persons may order the dolls or obtain more information from Hazel Aument, RD1, Holtwood, PA 17532

As many people are still interested in making their own dolls, we would appreciate any information our readers can provide on where the patterns may be obtained.

**Riding Clothes**

I have also received a letter from a woman who would like to make Western and English riding clothes for her youngsters. She is interested in obtaining patterns for constructing the clothes herself I would appreciate any information or clues on solving this request.

**Farm Story Anthology**

The Women's Alliance of the Newark Unitarian Fellowship have recently published an anthology of farm stories written by the late Florence Delano Brown, a former columnist for the Long Island Amityville Record

Mrs. Brown, a native of New York, moved to a farm in Cecil County, Maryland following her marriage to Clarence Brown. For a number of years, she wrote about her farm life from a former city girl's point of view often discussing the problems and joys of farm activities

Mrs. Brown's stories have been compiled in a booklet entitled "Down the Road a Piece" and is available from the Women's Alliance at a cost of \$2.00

For requests please write to Mrs. George A. Hart, Jr., 420 Brewster Dr., Sycamore Manor, Newark, Del., 19711



Barbara Mowrer is holding a dark blue pitcher and glass of Walter's grandmother Mueller's. In the background an 1882 hanging lamp lights the old

jelly cupboard where she displays her grandmother Earhart's carnival glass water set and pitcher and bowl set.